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while not excluding his having begun to follow the sea, would hardly be used if he were already an expert seaman. Again, that one who began a seafaring life much after twenty should have become so accomplished a navigator seems improbable. The main misgiving that one feels about Mr. Vignaud's argument is in supposing that an expert Italian lawyer like Desimoni is mistaken in his interpretation of Genoese usage in regard to such matters as the deductions to be made from the notarial documents, for although Mr. Vignaud cites one statement of Desimoni's in favor of his view, Desimoni's own conclusions are quite positively in favor of 1446-1447. One feels, too, that the interpretation of "major annis decemnovem" as asserting that Columbus had completed his nineteenth year, while natural and probable, is not certain. In the mass of notarial documents collected by Staglieno there are very few statements of the age of the parties, and when the age is stated the following form is used more than once: "etatis annorum. XI. in circa" (*Raccolta Colombiano*, Part II, vol. 1, 83).

Mr. Vignaud has supplied all the data for an independent judgment on the part of the student, reprinting extracts from the Genoese statutes as to legal ages, all the notarial documents bearing on the question which Columbus signed, all the arguments given for the series of supposable birth-dates from 1430 to 1458, a list of the authorities supporting these dates respectively arranged under years, and a general bibliography of the sources as well. Whatever may finally be the conclusion of critics on Mr. Vignaud's contention, he has placed students under great obligations by thus collecting the requisite data to enable one to see almost at a glance how the case stands with each of the rival dates, which outnumber the cities which competed for the honor of Homer's birth. Under 1451 Ruge is wrongly cited as favoring that date in his *Columbus*. He comes out positively for 1446-1447 on page 24 of that work. The publishers have clothed this monograph in a most attractive form.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

The Oldest Map with the Name America of the Year 1507 and the Carta Marina of the Year 1516 by M. Waldseemüller (Ilacomilus).

Edited by JOSEPH FISCHER and FR. R. VON WIESER. (London: Henry Stevens, Son, and Stiles. 1903. Pp. 55, and 27 plates.)

DURING the last twenty-five years a large number of valuable maps, the work of early sixteenth-century cartographers, have been brought to light, notably the Cantino, the Canerio, the Hamy, and the Waldseemüller world-maps of 1507 and 1516. Among these, the two last-named, which are also the last discovered, hold a most important place. It perhaps would not be difficult to demonstrate that they hold first place in the influence exerted.

Such materials for studying early cartography are of course none too frequent, for, as Kohl well says, "With no class of historical documents has time been more destructive". Very nearly all of the charts drawn

by pilots, captains, and professional draftsmen who accompanied early expeditions to the New World and sketched its coasts *de visu* have disappeared, and the maps which have come down to us are compilations into which many of the sketches of more or less limited regions have entered. And yet in the increasing interest in cartographical studies, stimulated by these important finds of early and elaborately executed work, there perhaps may lie the assurance that at no distant day many of the lost originals may be recovered.

Whatever the fame enjoyed by Waldseemüller in his day as cartographer and student of geography, he seems chiefly to have been remembered in later years as one of Duke René's literary coterie, as the author of a little work which he called *Cosmographiæ Introductio*, and as co-editor of the 1513 Strasburg edition of Ptolemy, to which work he added some new maps. Since Humboldt's discovery of near seventy years ago, his fame has rested very largely, at least in the popular mind, upon the fact, then made known, that he was the first to propose the name America for a part of the newly-discovered regions in the west. That Waldseemüller had drawn and published a large world-map as early as 1507 appeared certain from the references in his little book and from allusions in letters written by himself and by his friends. From these references, however, only a very imperfect conception could be formed of the character of the map. With the finding of this long-lost map in the summer of 1901 he comes anew before the world as a cartographer of great distinction, indeed as a workman whose labors were epoch-making.

While searching the archives of Wolfegg Castle in Württemberg for cartographical material which might be of value to him in his studies of the Norse discoveries in the New World, Professor Joseph Fischer, S. J., of Stella Matutina College, Feldkirch, Austria, had the good fortune to discover an ancient folio bearing the book-plate of Johann Schöner, a cartographer and mathematician of distinction, a contemporary and acquaintance of Waldseemüller. This folio enclosed within its covers some fragments of the work of Schöner, a star-map drawn by Albrecht Dürer, and two large world-maps by Waldseemüller each consisting of twelve sheets printed from engraved blocks. It is very evident that these were intended as wall-maps, each measuring with its parts properly joined about eight feet by four. Very shortly after the discovery had been made, Professor Fischer took the steps necessary for their reproduction. To this end every courtesy was offered by Fürst Franz von Waldburg-Wolfegg, the possessor of the documents, and with the financial support of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Vienna and the assistance of the distinguished professor of geography Fr. R. von Wieser this volume of excellent facsimiles made its appearance a few months since. The English translator, the Rev. George Pickel, S. J., of Canisius College, Buffalo, N. Y., is at times amusingly literal in his part of the work. While it is to be regretted that the editors have presented so brief a critical study of the maps (about fifty-five pages, double columns, German and English),

in full justice to the work there can be found little reason for adverse criticism but much to praise, particularly so when it is recalled that those interested have waited but a comparatively short time before having access to the maps.

Conjectures have been many as to the real character of the map which the *Cosmographiæ* was designed to accompany. Waldseemüller referred to it as a large map on which had been designated the different realms by means of escutcheons, particular reference being made to the imperial eagle of the Empire, the papal keys in various parts of Europe, the Mohammedan crescent in Africa and in parts of Asia, the cross of Prester John in India, the coat of arms representing the regions belonging to the kings of Spain and Portugal, and the small crosses to indicate the location of shoals. Now that we have the map before us, it can be considered as nothing less than a remarkable piece of work, whatever the point of view, when one takes into consideration the time and place of its preparation. It is not dated, neither does it bear the name of Waldseemüller, but it answers completely the author's brief description. Many of its legends accord with those given in the *Cosmographiæ*. It is clearly the original used by Glareanus in the preparation of his maps, discovered about ten years ago; indeed that cartographer states that he had reproduced the work of Waldseemüller. As could be expected, the name America is given to a part of the newly-discovered regions in the west, but is clearly not intended to be applied to the whole as is so often but erroneously stated or implied by writers who treat our early history. Lastly, in the map of 1516 there is an explicit reference to the work of 1507, in which it is stated that it had been printed in 1,000 copies. None have ventured to doubt that we now have the long-lost map, the map *in plano* to which he referred in his expression "*Universalis Cosmographiæ descriptio tam in solido quam plano*". There is also here new evidence in this map that the Hauslav-Liechtenstein gore map is a copy of Waldseemüller's map *in solido*, although the doubt is not yet entirely removed as to whether Waldseemüller meant a globe by that Latin term.

The projection of the 1507 map is that of Ptolemy, but the modification is marked. The small inset maps at the top, an original idea with him, are the oldest known maps in which the earth's surface has been divided into two hemispheres. These are nothing less than the originals of the rough woodcuts by Stobnicza, to which considerable importance has hitherto been attached. His portraits of Ptolemy and Vespucci, drawn to the right and the left of the hemispheres the old and the new world respectively, are of course mere sketches of fancy. Waldseemüller exhibits what appears as an interesting inconsistency in his opinion respecting the contour of the New World. In his inset maps he indicates a Central-American isthmus, while in the large map he shows a strait between the land to the north and that to the south. The presentation in the large map may be but the expression of a belief in the insular character of the newly-discovered regions. That he was strongly influenced in his cartographical notions by Ptolemy for the regions professedly

known by that ancient geographer is very evident, notably for the regions in the far east, but new sources necessarily served him for the lands beyond the world of Ptolemy, and the evidence that his sources here were largely Portuguese is none the less certain. He shows clearly in this map that he believed the new discoveries in the west were no part of Asia, a belief more generally entertained at that early date than many of the recent historians of the period would have us believe.

There are many respects in which the marine map of 1516 is a more interesting piece of work than is the world-map of 1507. That it exerted a marked influence on the cartography of the century, though perhaps not so marked as the earlier one, is now certain. The brief mention by Ortelius in his catalogue of 1570 of a marine map by Waldseemüller, without date and published in Germany, contains about the only information we had of this before Professor Fischer's discovery. The style and excellence of the draftmanship which the *Carta Marina* exhibits suggest the thought that Albrecht Dürer, or a prominent member of his school, here rendered cartographical science a service. It is not drawn on the Ptolemaic projection, but on a rectangular network of degrees, and is distinctly marked as a marine chart by intersecting rhumb-lines issuing from compass-cards with thirty-two divisions. Twice the name of Waldseemüller appears on the chart, and among others there is the interesting but not altogether definite legend "Consumatum est in oppido S. Deodati compositione et digestionem Martini Waldseemuller Ilacomili". A dedication on one of the sheets to Hugo de Hassard, bishop of Toul, honors that patron of the Vosgian Gymnasium.

Although this has been referred to as a world-map, Waldseemüller has omitted more than one hundred degrees of longitude. The northern region of the New World is designated as *Terra de Cuba Asiae Partis*, but he leaves us wholly in doubt as to his belief respecting the manner in which *Terra de Cuba* is joined with the continent of Asia. The name *Prisilia sive Terra Papagalli* now takes the place of America, a change prompted by a sense of justice to Columbus, it would seem from the legend: "Hec [regio] per Hispanos et Portugalenses frequentatis navigationibus inventa circa annos Domini 1492: quorum capitanei fuere Cristoferus Columbus Januensis Primus, Petrus Aliares secundus, Albericus Vesputius tertius", a legend which also appears on the Schöner globe of 1520. The details of this map show a decided advance in knowledge since the issue of the map of 1507, and indicate that the author had been guided less by Ptolemy and more by the modern maps.

He often refers in his *Cosmographiæ* to the sources he consulted in the preparation of his map of 1507. Clearly Ptolemy held first place among these sources, yet Marco Polo also served him for the east, Donnus Nicolaus Germanus for the Scandinavian regions, Portuguese maps and reports for the African coasts and for the New World, particularly maps of the Behaim, the Martellus, the Hamy, and especially the Canerio types. In a personal letter from Professor Fischer he expresses the belief that he has found but recently some of Waldseemüller's map

sources, hitherto unknown, for certain sections of eastern Africa and Asia. All these sources with a number of others enter into his work.

As for the *Carta Marina*, the editors can hardly be accused of overstatement in referring to it as "a printed edition of the Canerio chart, not indeed a slavish reprint; but an improved and . . . enlarged edition". In nomenclature, in legends, in coast contours the resemblance is striking. A large number of his sources for this map are expressly enumerated in a legend which is conspicuously given. That the Portuguese cartography of the new discoveries should have exerted so remarkable an influence on the geographers of central Europe, particularly the German, is an interesting fact. It is not to be explained by merely attributing a more liberal spirit to the Portuguese than to the Spanish governments respecting the spread of information concerning the new lands discovered. There is suggested, by the fact of that great influence, a lively intercourse, commercial and otherwise, between Germany and Portugal in those years, and the nature of that intercourse is a subject worthy of more careful study.

One can no longer doubt with Nordenskiöld the marked ability and influence of Waldseemüller. Clearly his maps of 1507 and 1516 are his best work, yet his map of Europe bearing the date 1511, but recently found, and his contributions to the Strasburg edition of Ptolemy entitle him to a place of first rank. We now know very much of the extent of his influence on his contemporaries and his successors of the century, and the list of those who copied him more or less slavishly is a long one. In the amount of positive information that these maps give concerning the status of geographical knowledge in the early years of the sixteenth century may be found no small part of their historical value. An astonishingly large part of the literature of early American cartography needs careful revision since the issue of this volume of facsimiles.

E. L. STEVENSON.

The Opening of the Mississippi: a Struggle for Supremacy in the American Interior. By FREDERICK AUSTIN OGG, Instructor in History in Indiana University. (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Co. 1904. Pp. xi, 670.)

THIS book is itself a monograph showing the efforts of four nations through three centuries to discover and settle, develop, and control the Mississippi valley. The narrative begins with the first visits of the Spaniards to the northern shores of the Gulf of Mexico and concludes with the admission of the state of Louisiana into the Union with boundaries that embraced a portion of that vague province, "West Florida". The place of the book in a classified bibliography is between the general works such as Wilson's or McMaster's (for the period which McMaster and Ogg have in common) on the one hand, and, on the other, the monographs of Parkman, Thwaites, and Winsor on the French discoverers, Gayarré's *History of Louisiana*, Hosmer's *History of the Louisiana Purchase*, or